



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

June 27, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Mr. John E. Swearingen  
Chairman  
Standard Oil Company (Indiana)  
200 East Randolph Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Swearingen:

I was very glad to have a chance to chat with you at lunch the other day since there really are a surprising number of points of common interest. I will be disappointed if we do not find an opportunity when it might be convenient for us to get together with a couple of your colleagues and talk about how we can provide a firmer foundation for the global-economy-driving implications of comparative toxicology.

This note, however, is to introduce still a different subject, which is embodied in a letter that Gordon MacDonald and a few others of us have sent on to The White House. It concerns Tommy Gold's proposition that the Planet Earth is not yet fully outgassed, and that this insight may have an important bearing on further development of energy resources. This is an issue I have had a small opportunity to think about during the last 20 years (admittedly mostly from the point of view of where and how to look for life on other planets). Whatever the outcome of this proposition it is already a surprising reminder of how surprisingly interconnected are many practical and theoretical issues. Anyhow, I thought you might wish to have an opportunity to see this even before it becomes more widely available as I suspect it may through the public media.

Yours sincerely,

*Joshua Lederberg*  
Joshua Lederberg

Encl. - *Comp. Rep., ltr. to T. Auer*  
*& Natural Gas booklet*  
*from T. Gold*

bcc:DO routing